

Flathead County Road and Bridge Advisory Committee
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 8, 2008 – **7:00 pm**
Solid Waste District Board Room – County Landfill

1. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Charles Lapp – Chairman, Karl Schrade, David Hilde, Mike Schlegel-Vice Chairman

Committee Members Absent: Dan Siderius

Staff Present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Administrative Assistant Mike Pence, Planning & Zoning Director Jeff Harris, Recording Secretaries Patti Vernarsky and Karen Rogers

Public Attendees: Gabe Gluth, Mark Gluth, Paul Abel, Rose Mary Gluth, Erica Wirtala, Henry Ralston, Glen Hook, Jean Hook, Whitey Boughton, Tom Gorton, Noel Gorton, Brian Cole, Lynn Pearce

2. Introductory Remarks

No introductory remarks at this time.

3. Comments from the Public (15 Minutes Maximum)

Mark Gluth, 1068 McMannamy Draw – Mark stated the members of the committee has expressed interest in developing a criteria for eventual paving of roads. He distributed a list of roads by order of traffic counts that had complaints on them through the DEQ. He felt these roads should be the priority. There were twenty county roads with traffic counts and three private roads that did not have any traffic counts. He explained there are approximately 50 miles of roads on this list which included the ten miles of the North Fork to Camas Creek. He commented on the article in the paper about Gary Hall trying to get ten more miles of the North Fork Road paved. He explained that Jeff Key's visited a Flathead Citizens for Paved Roads meeting, and Jeff stated that any road with a traffic count over 400 a day should be paved. Mark wanted to know who was going to pay for those ten miles. He asked why the county was working on Idaho Hill Road. He felt if the road can be blockaded for a week that the work could wait to be done, and the money could be spent elsewhere. He reiterated that Dave Prunty lives on a paved road, which was his choice. He continued with that he and his family live on a gravel road. He reiterated what Paul Abel pointed out that people living on paved roads are getting overlays at no cost to them. He felt it is unfair for people that live on gravel roads to pay for even a portion of their oiling. He felt the county should take the equivalent of the three miles of overlaying and pay for the oiling on the list of roads he had distributed. He stated

to Dave that he did not pay for the paving of his road, the citizens of the valley did, and that the people on gravel roads are the citizens.

Charles Lapp asked where the mileages on Mark's list for the North Fork and Ashley Lake road came from. Mark replied that the North Fork is from the end of the pavement to Camas Creek. Mark continued that as for Ashley Lake Road, he contacted the people that had complained to DEQ and they told him they were approximately seven miles from the end of the pavement.

Glen Hook, 905 Prairie View – He questioned the amount that Guy Foy had stated last meeting about the \$3500 per mile to grade a road. He stated that a private company could grade it for \$500 per mile. He felt the grading should be subcontracted out and with the savings from the grading should be used for dust abatement.

Paul Abel, 301 Farm Road – He agreed with Mark about some people paying for their roads and others getting overlays for free. He distributed an "Asphalt Overlay Proposal". He stated that currently the property owners of a within an RSID have to pay for an overlay, why not start the process now, and create RSID's for overlays. He felt the savings from this proposal could be used towards dust abatement and gravel road work.

Noel Gorton, 578 Creston Rd – She asked for the results of the deputy hired for the dust, and how much time he spends on each road, how many tickets he has written. She also asked about where the discussion is about what roads are going to receive dust abatement. She commented about letter to the editor from the Ravalli County commissioner in the paper about Gary Hall securing millions of dollars for schools and roads, and where was this money going to go.

Tom Gorton, 578 Creston Rd – He produced a pamphlet produced by the Flathead County Planning & Zoning Office "Rural Living in Flathead County" and commented about making enemies if someone were to call and complain about the dust. He feels this is exactly how the public is being treated, and that the public is being threatened. He wanted to know how houses can be built with in a subdivision before it has gone to final plat and approved by the county.

Lynn Pearce, 50 Yellowstone Rd – She commented on the letter to the editor from Gary Hall in the Hungry Horse News about the meeting at the bank in Columbia Falls regarding the paving of the North Fork Road. She wanted to know who was going to pay for this road to get paved. Mike Pence stated the county is not going to pay for the paving; the funds will either be State or Federal.

Erica Wirtala, 1685 McMannamy Draw – She stated that recently West Valley School passed a levy for a school bus transportation system for that district. She wanted the committee to look at possible areas for bus stops on county roads. Her concerns, such as McMannamy, where there is only one way in and one way out,

and there isn't any safe place for a bus to turn around. The schools requirements are that bus stops can only be on county roads and state highways, not on private roads. She wanted to know where these buses are supposed to turn around, when the road grader can hardly turn around at the ends of such roads. She wanted the committee to look at possibly creating school bus turn around standards.

Public comment ended at 7:35 pm.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes – **Action Required**

David Hilde moved to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2008 meeting. Karl Schrade seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed, minutes approved.

5. Action Agenda – **No Items Requiring Action**

6. Director's Report

a. Peccia & Associates update on the Transportation Plan

Jeff Harris distributed four different memorandums concerning the transportation plan. He started with the Goals & Objectives. He continued onto the next memorandum, the Maintenance Rating System, third was the Paved vs. Unpaved Roadways memorandum, and last the Socioeconomic Analysis & Growth Projections. He briefly outlined each of their contents and asked the committee members to review the memorandums and bring back ideas and questions for the next meeting with Brian Wacker of Peccia & Associates.

b. Discussion Topics for Report

Dave Prunty stated that he, Charles Lapp, David Hilde, Guy Foy & Patti met to discuss and prioritize the list of topics for the report to the commissioners. He stated that this list is just a brief outline with eight different topics and relevant bullet points for each, numbered in order of main concern.

Discussion was started on the first topic of gravel roads and each of the bullets was discussed. As time was running late, more topics will be discussed at following meetings.

7. Comments from Committee Members

8. Adjournment

Mike Schlegel made the motion to adjourn, David Hilde seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.